Treasury Department
Feb 9th 1854

Sir,

In your letter of the 8th you express your willingness to superintend the preparation of the alloy used as a safe-guard against accidents on steam boats, but wish further information on the subject.

The inclosed letters from the Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, from the Chief Engineer at the Navy Yard in this city, and from the person employed by him to make the alloy, will, it is hoped, supply much of the information you desire. You will please to hold them document subject to the order of this Department.

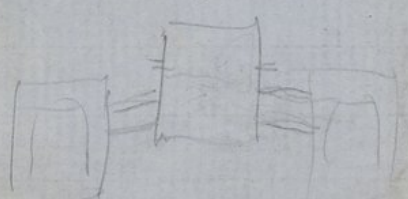
As Professors Smith and Alexander will shortly visit your institution as members of the Alloy Committee, you will have an opportunity of consulting with them on the best mode of preparing the alloy.

As the whole amount of alloy prepared last year was but 3000 lbs, and as a like amount will probably be requisite this year, perhaps it will not be necessary to hire a distinct establishment for its preparation. About 2500 lbs are wanted, as soon as it can be supplied, for service in California.

Very Respectfully
James Guthrie
Secretary of the Treasury.

To
James C. Booth Esqr
Melter and Refiner, of the Mint.

9. Feb. 1854

J. Guthrie. Secy Treas

Fusible metal No 2